

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
FIRE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT
July 2002

OFFICE OF THE FIRE ADMINISTRATOR

Commission Office

The following items were discussed at the July 11, 2002 meeting of the Fire and Rescue Commission:

- Chair Aoyagi announced that County Executive Doug Duncan has appointed Lisa Larson to the Fire and Rescue Commission. Ms. Larson's appointment is subject to confirmation by the County Council, and will be replacing Len Marco.
- Chair Aoyagi announced that the FRC/MCFRS annual planning convocation will be held on September 28, and more information will be forthcoming on this event.
- Chair Aoyagi provided an update on the "two hatter" situation, and indicated that a public forum would be held in the near future to establish a record to make recommendations to the County Executive in developing a new executive regulation to establish parameters for "two hatters" to volunteer at the LFRDs.
- Chair Aoyagi reported that a Medical Review Committee is currently being established per the requirements of State Law.
- The *Code of Ethics and On-Duty Personal Conduct* Executive Regulation was adopted by the County Council on July 9 and is effective immediately.
- A reallocation request of Senator Amos funds was approved for the Cabin John Park VFD.
- A proposal to amend the FRC by-laws was placed on the table to be acted upon at the August 8, 2002 FRC meeting.
- The Commission approved the establishment of EMT-I as the new base level of ALS provider for the MCFRS following changes made to the EMT-P curriculum by the Federal DOT.
- The Commission approved the standardization of EMS spinal immobilization equipment carried by all MCFRS field units.

Research and Planning

Emergency Management

Annual CAO Briefing- August 14th the Emergency Management Group conducted its Annual Emergency Management Briefing to the Chief Administrative Officer, County Dept and Agency heads, and utilities. Topics included terrorism preparedness, the Bio-terrorism Task Force, summary of the 2001-2002 exercises and 2003 exercise plan, training classes, and next year's proposed work program. MCPS's Ed Clarke updated the EMG on school preparedness efforts, including the training of over 3000 school employees on their crisis plans. Lynn Frank updated the group on the activities of the Bio-terrorism Task Force.

Citizen Corp Council – Two organizational meetings have been held for the Citizen Corp Council to qualify for federal funding. One meeting was held with FEMA Region III and MEMA to discussed application procedures and eligibility for federal funding. The Council will organize volunteer organizations activated for disaster and emergency response or preparedness efforts under the Volunteer Center as the lead agency. Volunteers will coordinate with the EMG.

Sept NPS Exercise – Planning is on-going for the September 25th EMG National Pharmaceutical Stockpile EOC activation and distribution site exercise. PG County will join state agencies in participating in the multi-jurisdictional exercise. The 5 area hospitals are using the exercise as part of their annual recertification. Office of Emergency Management has been asked by the hospitals to recruit upwards of 300 mock patient volunteers. Public schools and volunteer organizations have been contacted.

NPS Coordination – Public Health, Fire Rescue, Police, Sheriff, OEM, and other agencies are participating in the drafting of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Plan for Montgomery County. The County has been designated as one of several sites for the federal push pack in the event of the need of millions of doses or specialized vaccinations. Agencies are reviewing policies for vaccination of first responders.

NPS Exercise Critique- Plans are underway to coordinate the NPS exercise critique to be hosted by one of the area hospitals. MEMA is also planning an Exercise Evaluation class and may partner with our critique.

Dirty Bomb Planning – Office of Emergency Management continues planning for the Dirty Bomb Workshop for September 4. There is currently a waiting list for class attendance due to the popularity of the program. The EMG is planning a Radiological Exercise for February 25, 2003 which may include a “dirty bomb” scenario.

COG Business Continuity – K. Henning attended the August 16th Council of Governments meeting with Michael Rogers, Arlington, Virginia State EMA, and a dozen business and chamber associations to discuss the drafting of the Business Continuity Annex. Business representatives stress early communications during a crisis about evacuation vs. shelter strategies, and safety messages to employees. The work group has been asked to look at planning efforts for the Annex as well as a Continuity of Business Operations Guidebook for Small Businesses. Follow up will include training and exercises within the local jurisdictions.

e-Team – The e-Team software has been purchased by both Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Council of Governments to test as the vehicle for coordinating the RICC. Mike Krumlauf attended the COG briefings and testing of the equipment, and he was on the original CIMS project that evaluated 11 EOC software systems. District Chief Ey and Mike Krumlauf are part of the evaluation team looking at e-Team software for Montgomery County’s use in the EOC.

e-Montgomery- Meetings were held with staff from Dept of Technology Services to finalize the transition to the SQL server for the Hazlink hazardous materials regulation program as part of our e-Montgomery initiative. There was a delay of over 3 weeks in which the system had to be modified before it was placed in service by DTS.

EOP – The County Council approved the 2001 Annexes to the Emergency Operations Plan on July 23rd. The updated EOP was issued to County agencies at the August 14th CAO Briefing on CD Rom.

MML- K. Henning was part of a panel with state and local officials to brief the Maryland Municipal League at their Ocean City conference. Montgomery County will also be making a presentation to the MML Board of Directors at their retreat on September 16th. The Mayor of Kensington is the new President of the MML and asked for the presentation. Staff have been meeting with CAO staff and the Fire Administrator to organize the presentation.

Animals in Disaster – OEM hosted the Animals in Disaster Workshop on July 30th. The half day program focused on issues of animals as sentinels of bio-terrorism, and also on disposal issues following mass animal fatalities. Speakers included the Maryland Dept. of Agriculture, the Humane Society of the US, Office of Economic Development, and our Animal Services division.

Fair – Office of Emergency Management, Mid-Atlantic DOGS, and Red Cross participated in community outreach efforts during this year's Montgomery County Agricultural Fair at the Fire and Rescue lot. The theme was Disaster Preparedness.

Dialogic – OEM has ordered the Public Database for the Dialogic Automated Notification System which is located in the EOC.

NOAA Radios – Hundreds of NOAA Weather radios were purchased by State with federal grant funding. The Montgomery County share is valued at over \$21,000 and will be distributed to county public and private schools, the colleges, and a select number of government center buildings. September 4th is the scheduled press conference to announce the distribution to the Public Schools. A letter has been drafted to the principals of the private schools, and MCFRS will assist with the distribution to the private schools.

Community Education Safety Section

- Attended various Staff meetings.
- Replied, by phone or email, to 65 citizen, 30 FD, & 30 “other” (media, county gov’t) inquires (16 hours).
- Met with various department staff and members totaling 12 hours.
- Composed various Memos and Safety Tips for dissemination to all work locations.
- Scheduled various community education events and classes (10 hours).
- Dealt with various personnel and program issues relating to community safety.
- Various correspondences composed and disseminated. (9 hours)
- Continued with various Fire Evacuation Planning sessions for various High/Mid Rise Office/Residential, churches, and other 1-story buildings **NOW IMPACTING over 124,000 people encompassing 133 HOURS.**
- Reviewed bids, proposals, and rough drafts for various education literature and items. (1 hours)
- Composed and sent out an eNewsletter.
- Meetings re CERT/CHAMP program developmental (8 hours).
- Operation Extinguish management & contract meeting. (1 hour)
- Various Fire Safety lectures, Health Fairs, Community Events by this office and some stations. 600 kids and 300 adults impacted.
- CPSS Tech’s participated in several Car Seat Checks.
- Home Fire Safety Evaluations conducted. (3 hours)
- Acting Duty PIO (72 hours).
- Attended Outlook Training (8 hours).
- Attended CERT Train the Trainer Alexandria (VA) Fire Academy (8 Hours).
- Attended Firehouse Conference and Exposition (3 hours).
- Attended Citizen’s Corp meetings (5 hours).

Corporate Development Services

Automation Section

Fleet and Facilities Section

Grants Management Section

Property Section

DIVISION OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

Bureau of Operations

Administration

July saw the implementation of the new budget initiatives including staffing changes at fire stations 3 (Rockville), 29 (Germantown), 31 (Rockville), and 40 (Sandy Spring). We will be closely monitoring the response patterns for each of these stations over the next 90 – 120 days to determine the effects of these changes. Of special note is the expansion of emergency medical services in the Germantown area with the dedicated staffing on a 24 hour basis for both A289 (basic life support) and M299 (advanced life support).

Safety

Two new De-Con and Mass Casualty response units have been added to our capability. Personnel at the assigned stations have received initial training, and the units are in service at this time. For security reasons we are not publishing either the location of these units or their specific capabilities. Additional information is available by contacting MCFRS directly, and will be provided as appropriate.

Specialty Teams

As of July 3, 2002, we began implementation of the Specialty Teams Reorganization. When completed a third Hazardous Materials Response capability, and combination of the former River and Dive teams into one Water Response Team with primary locations at stations 10 & 30. Enhanced immediate response capability for Collapse Rescue and USAR will be achieved by concentration of appropriate staff at stations 29 & 31 which has just received expanded 24 hour staffing. Our capability to deliver rope rescue has been transferred to both the River and Collapse Rescue teams. This reorganization will be accomplished over the next 90 days and will involve staff movements of more than 50 career personnel.

Bureau of Program Support Services

Administration

Communications

Total telephone calls received	= 35,239
Total 9-1-1 calls received	= 10,581
Total administrative calls received	= 23,826

The totals for the first half of Fiscal Year 2002 are:

Total telephone calls received	= 189,457
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Total 9-1-1 calls received = 59,059

Total administrative calls received = 127,227

- District Chief Patullo held a COG Communications committee meeting on July 15, 2002 at the Prince William County Communications Center.
- Capt. Leslie Cook, Maureen Morello and Jim Grissom attended the APCO-NENA meeting on July 18, 2002.
- Maureen Morello, Jim Grissom, Judy Boswell and Marilyn Browning received Outlook training.

Training

The Training Academy hosted Firehouse Expo Training sessions on July 16th and 17th.

The second annual Career Camp sponsored by the Training Academy and Montgomery County Public Schools was held one week in June at Gaithersburg High School and one week in July at Thomas Edison High School of Technology. Photographs from the camps are posted on the web site (www.mcfrrs.org/frta).

Exams completed for Emergency Vehicle Driver Testing in July are:

Written	8
Practical	7

One career and one volunteer EMT-Paramedics were awarded charge status in July.

The National Registry Exam written and practical was given on July 9 and 10th for new EMT-Paramedics. Fifteen members of EMT-Paramedic Class #24 were released back to Operations on July 14th.

A graduation ceremony for the members of EMT-B Basic Classes #303, #304, #313 and Essentials of Firefighting Class #02-3 will be held on Friday, August 23, 2002 at 1900 hours in the Lobby of the Public Safety Training Academy.

Bureau of Life Safety Services

Administration

Fire Code Enforcement

Fire and Explosive Investigation

In July, Fire and Explosive Investigators investigated 18 accidental fires and 17 criminal fire related incidents. The Bomb Squad responded to a total of 36 explosive / suspicious package / letter, threat incidents. The total estimated dollar loss for accidental fires was \$ 1,081,000 and \$ 26,255 for criminal fire related incidents.

The county suffered its fifth fire fatality this month as a result of a suicide attempt that occurred back on April 4, 2002. The victim was an adult female who set herself and her vehicle on fire by using an ignitable liquid.

There were no reported injuries in the county this year from the use of illegal fireworks. There were two small fires as a result from fireworks and 911 calls reporting the use of fireworks was slightly down over last year.

Lt Matt Trivett (FM-57) successfully completed 27 weeks at the Montgomery County Police Academy graduating 4th in his class.

The Maryland Arson Task Force was activated to assist with the retail store fires. This investigation is still ongoing with ATF and Prince George's County fire investigators.

DIVISION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

- Met with Chief Strock, Fred Welsh and Dep. Chief Allwang regarding a general discussion regarding support vehicles
- Met with Chief Strock, Dep. Chief Master and Capt. Jacobs regarding a planned Metro exercise in Aug. or Sept., in Bethesda
- Participated in a forum with the Fire Administrator, Dr. Beasley, Ass't. Chief Carr, etc., and representatives from the Fairfax Co. Fire and Rescue Dept. regarding employee and volunteer counseling
- Met with Chief Urban and a BFD Board member regarding the Sta. 20 issue
- Discussed the EMBRS problem with Chief Strock, Ass't. Chief Wheeler and Fred Welsh and possible solutions
- Attended a meeting with the Public Safety Committee regarding an updating by the Fire Administrator on the DOL issue
- Attended a briefing with the hospital CEOs by the EMG on various issues
- Attended a Bio –Chem terrorism meeting
- Held another meeting on Pollution Prevention
- Met with Chief Long, Cheryl Reed and Carl Ayton (Co. 13 accountant) to settle financial Issues, e.g., 508, with Damascus
- Held a special meeting with DVFRS staff to discuss the duties of the position vacated by T. Hale
- Held another meeting on Pollution Prevention
- Attended the Fire Board, Human Relations, Safety and Training, Chefs' Advisory Committee meetings and the Fire and Rescue Commission and Fire and Rescue Association meeting

- Mediated personal, personnel and/or sensitive issues with various LFRDs, etc.